



LERROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

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August 11, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE 2005-2006
LOS ANGELES COUNTY GRAND JURY**

Attached is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) response to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report's recommendations (Attachment B). The Grand Jury areas of interest specific to the Department include the Jails Committee and Emergency Communication sections of the report.

Should you have questions regarding our response, please contact Commander Roberta Abner, of my office, at (323) 526-5000.

Sincerely,

LERROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

A Tradition of Service

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
JAILS COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION NO.1 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopt that part of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plan for jail housing and security to reduce overcrowded jail facilities.

RESPONSE

A Jail Housing and Security Plan was developed to address security, housing, and population issues within the jails. The plan contains eight phases. Four phases have already been completed and the remaining phases are in the process of being logistically implemented. To reduce the issues of overcrowding, the Department has implemented a plan to re-open Sybil Brand Institute (SBI) and build an additional female facility at Pitchess Detention Center (PDC). This will allow the transfer of all female inmates from the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) to SBI and PDC, allowing the Department to populate the high-security beds at CRDF with male inmates.

RECOMMENDATION NO.2 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Grand Jury recommends that the trusty sleeping area at Men's Central Jail be divided into three rooms for three shifts of sleeping.

RESPONSE

The design of Men's Central Jail will not allow for the flexibility to separate the inmate workers sleeping area into three sections for the three different work shifts. Men's Central Jail is not opposed to the idea; however, the physical layout of the trusty sleeping area will not allow the recommendation to be instituted.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Grand Jury recommends the continued use of trusties, as appropriate, within the jails of Los Angeles County.

RESPONSE

The Department continues to utilize inmate workers in many different areas of the jail system. However, the number of low security level inmates who meet the criteria to become a trusty is small due to a rise in the high security and felony inmate population throughout the jail system.

RECOMMENDATION NO.4 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopt the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFI) tags or other appropriate methods to track prisoners within the County jails as recommended in the Sheriff's plan.

RESPONSE

The Department is reviewing the issues associated with RFI, and is working to overcome any technical problems prior to its implementation. Additionally, the Department has established a new unit within the jails to research, develop, and implement systems to find solutions regarding inmate tracking issues at all jail facilities. These systems currently include the RFI Tags, and the Defendant Inmate Management System (DIMS), a court monitoring system.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopt that part of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plan to expand jail facilities in the County as well as its plan to move inmates to facilities more appropriate to the level of their crimes.

RESPONSE

This plan is currently being implemented. Female inmates that were housed in Tower Two of the Twin Towers Correctional Facility were relocated to the Century Regional Detention Facility. The Twin Towers Correctional Facility is now being used as a high security level facility for male inmates, housing the inmates previously held at Men's Central Jail and the North County Correctional Facility. This decreased the inmate population at Men's Central Jail. A plan to re-implement Century Regional Detention Facility as a high security level male facility includes the re-opening of Sybil Brand Institute for female inmates and building a new female jail facility at the Pitchess

Detention Center. The Department also plans to reduce crowding by canceling the Pitchess Detention Center contract with the State, transferring 1,292 inmates to the State's prisons. The Department is also preparing to expand the use of alternative incarceration programs, such as work furlough programs and electronic monitoring.

RECOMMENDATION NO.6 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopt that portion of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plan to implement telemedicine programs in the county jail system.

RESPONSE

The Telemedicine Program in the County jail system has a proposed pilot date set for middle to late August 2006, pending the necessary training from the telemedicine vendors.

RECOMMENDATION NO.8 (Administrative Services Division-Personnel)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors implement the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plan for employee hiring retention program.

RESPONSE

On September 19, 2005, the Department responded to the Board's motion regarding a plan to fill critical personnel shortages. The Department implemented a restoration plan that included multi-year staffing projections for custody, unincorporated area patrol, community policing and detective services.

In December 2005 a goal to hire 1,000 deputy sheriffs per year was established. The Department has maximized their academy class schedule and is currently holding classes at the STARS Center in Whittier, the College of the Canyons in Valencia, with planned classes in the Antelope Valley beginning November 2006.

For the past several months, the Department has consistently maintained up to 1,300 candidates in the background investigation process and filled each academy class with the maximum number of recruits.

In order to make the deputy sheriff testing more convenient for applicants, the Department increased their testing from three days a week to six days a week. In addition to this, the Department also conducts off-site testing, which brings the testing process into the local areas. Since July 2005 the Department has conducted 27 off-site tests.

The Department has also taken part in a multi-agency workgroup that was established, at the Board's request, to evaluate bottlenecks to further improve the hiring process. The workgroup has met on several occasions and has been very successful in analyzing current hiring procedures and retention issues. Subsequent to the workgroup's full review, the workgroup will be presenting to the Board recommendations to further enhance staffing in the areas of training and polygraph examinations, along with a number of non-monetary ideas that should further increase the Department's hiring capability.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 9 (Field Operations Region III)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Department correct deficiencies in the sobering cells at the Walnut Sheriff's Station and Lakewood Sheriff's Station. The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles Police Department correct the deficiency in the sobering cells at the Southwest and Southeast Division Police Stations.

RESPONSE

The Department is currently receiving a bid from Marathon Engineering Corporation (MEC), a corporation that specializes in the manufacturing of sober cells. The Department has submitted a requisition to Internal Services Division (ISD) for approval of MEC to complete the modifications to both the Walnut and the Lakewood Sheriff Station's sobering cells. It is anticipated that the completion of both sobering cells should take place within the next three to four months.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12 (Court Services Division)

The Department should place gratings over the light fixtures in the holding area of Beverly Hills Court. The facility needs painting.

RESPONSE

Gratings were placed over light fixtures in November 2005. The peeling paint has been removed and a requisition has been submitted to ISD for painting. There is no anticipated time frame for the completion of the painting.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 13 (Court Services Division)

The Department should address the safety issues in the Inglewood Juvenile Court.

RESPONSE

The Grand Jury was concerned about the non-contact interview area in the Inglewood Juvenile Court. The interview area has no glass between the interviewer and interviewee.

The Los Angeles County Probation Department has been given a copy of the report and informed of the Grand Jury's concerns. Representatives of the Probation Department said they would take it under advisement.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 14 (Court Services Division)

The Department should provide an override switch on the elevator controls for the Downey Courthouse and repaint the cell area.

RESPONSE

The elevators at the Downey Courthouse are currently equipped with key activated override switches. Keys have been issued to the court staff, giving personnel the ability to override elevators in an emergency. The cell area was painted approximately two years ago with an anti-graffiti textured paint coating. The cells are routinely steamed cleaned once a month.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15 (Field Operations Region III)

The Department must repair the lighting in the cell area of the City of Industry Station. The cell area must be maintained in a clean condition.

RESPONSE

Because the report does not specify which cell(s) were commented upon, an inspection of the entire jail facility was completed. The inspection found the lighting throughout the jail was in good working condition, that all the bulbs were functioning, and the cell areas were clean and in good repair.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 16 (Court Services Division)

The Department should immediately repair the floor in the LAX Courthouse.

RESPONSE

The coating on the floor in high-traffic areas was peeling. The coating was subsequently repaired, eliminating the hazard.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 17 (Field Operations Region II)

The Department should close the Lennox Station and replace it with a larger and more secure facility.

RESPONSE

Plans for the new "Athens Station" are well underway. The architect has drawn plans and is awaiting the Sheriff's approval. The new station will be located at Imperial Highway and Normandie Avenue and will also house Probation and other County departments. The Department anticipates a start time in November 2007.

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION, ARE WE READY?

RECOMMENDATION NO.9 (Technical Services Division)

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles Police Department should ensure the completion of Phase II of the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communication System (LARTCS).

RESPONSE

The Department has been diligent in ensuring LARTCS interoperability. Phase II has seen the hiring of a consultant to perform a variety of tasks that will enable a bid and construction of the shared channels. January 2008 is an estimated target date for the completion of the shared channel build-out. Channels will become operational before the targeted completion date. Urban Area Strategic Initiative (UASI) grant funds for 2006-2007 have been obtained to expand the gateway portion of LARTCS into Northern Los Angeles County. This expansion should be completed by January 2008.

RECOMMENDATION NO.10 (Emergency Operations Bureau)

The Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief (LACFD), Los Angeles Fire Department Chief (LAFD), Los Angeles Police Department Chief (LAPD) and the Department should continue to pursue the adoption of promising communication technology.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees completely with the recommendation of the Civil Grand Jury and is actively pursuing interoperable communications with the agencies mentioned. The current Homeland Security Grant process demands regional projects which benefit the operational area and not a specific agency or department. Communications technology projects are at the forefront of these regional efforts. Along with the Los Angeles Regional Common Operational Picture Program (LARCOPP) project mentioned in the Grand Jury audit, there are additional communications projects being considered utilizing Command and Control Personal Computer (C2PC) Programs and Future Concepts technology.

Additionally, there are other proposals to link communications not only to the agencies recommended in the Grand Jury Audit, but also to other independent municipal fire and police agencies within Los Angeles County. These grant funded proposals have been supported by all of the agencies mentioned in recommendation #10.

Aside from grant funding, the Department has authorized the expenditure of \$2.5 million to explore the feasibility of data, voice and computer aided dispatch interoperability among all cities within Los Angeles County. This technology would eliminate issues with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as to bandwidth constraints and allow full utilization of computerized communication systems in police stations, fire stations, and in emergency vehicles.

The Department is fully committed to the exploration of communications technology and is aggressively pursuing implementation.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12 (Technical Services Division)

When the Los Angeles City and County purchases new communication equipment, bid documents should require suppliers to offer maintenance, parts, training, and related services throughout the life of the system.

RESPONSE

In September 2000 the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with RCC Consultants Inc. (RCC) to study the feasibility of developing a Consolidated Fire/Sheriff/Office of Public Safety (CFSOPS) radio system. The study was needed because both the Fire Department and the Department's radio systems were aging, and the FCC had mandated that both departments change to accommodate a more efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum. System replacements are needed to address the aging infrastructure of the system as well as to meet the FCC mandate.

On November 29, 2005, the Board approved an agreement with RCC to develop a technical scope of work and evaluation tools for a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the CFSOPS project. This RFP is scheduled to be released in April 2007.

Additionally, RCC has completed a study funded by the City and County of Los Angeles with participation and input provided by the Contract Cities Association. This study focused on the feasibility of developing a regional communication (voice and data) system. The concept is similar to the County's CFSCS radio system project except that it would involve the majority of public safety agencies within the geographical boundaries of the County of Los Angeles. The Department, LAPD, LAFD, LACFD,

ATTACHMENT B

many other law enforcement and fire agencies, along with Internal Services Department (ISD) are participating in the study. The Regional Interoperability Steering Committee (RISC) oversees the overall effort and has appointed separate committees to manage the technical, governance, finance, and legislative portions of the effort.

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